

support of it in order to secure the votes of the prospective beneficiaries are still insisting a bonus bill must be passed regardless of the character or source of the revenues with which to finance it.

It is the judgment of the best informed men in both houses that no bonus bill will be signed by President Harding unless it is based upon a plan, and that the overwhelming opposition existing in the country will prevent the repassage of it over his veto.

The storm of popular disapproval which for a week has been steadily growing to the proportions of a hurricane, has already split the supporters of the bonus raid and driven to cover Senators and Representatives who had committed themselves to its support.

The President's suggestion that consideration of bonus legislation be deferred until a more propitious period in the financial history of the country is finding many supporters in both houses. These men believe that popular sentiment which is opposed to the payment of gratuities to able-bodied ex-service men will be satisfied if generous provisions for those physically incapacitated is made by the Government on the initiative of Congress.

Plan to Aid Disabled.

A plan to amend the adjusted compensation act which would distribute a minimum of \$5,000,000,000 to men fully capable of earning their living, and to increase the provision for the sick and wounded heroes of the world war, is already in process of construction.

The supporters of it are confident the proposal will be generally commended by the people of the country and will fulfill their legitimate obligations to the men who served under the colors on foreign battlefields.

The leaders in both houses, who have been desperately trying to discover legitimate sources of revenue to finance the bonus, will continue their quest for the present. Most of them admit that every available source has been closed by the vigorous recommendations of the House Ways and Means Committee and the avalanche of protests which has come from every class of citizens throughout the country with staggering effect upon the members of the two houses of Congress.

Threats of political reprisal made by the professional promoters of the bonus raid have been more than counterbalanced by the vigorous remonstrances of the people already crying out against the existing burdens of taxation. The Congressional promoters of the bonus, who still continue in the majority, frankly admit they do not know where they will next turn in search of a plan for financing it. The opponents of the bonus raid do not hesitate to declare that "the bonus raid is dead."

Sentiment for Delay Gains.

The President's letter aggravated rather than dissipated the troubles of the bonus advocates. His suggestion that a general sales tax on merchandise be imposed to raise the bonus money or that action be postponed provoked even greater confusion among Senators and Representatives than had existed before.

Of the two plans recommended, that proposing the abandonment of the bonus project for the present appeared to find the more favorable reaction. It was described by one harassed Senator who had pledged himself to vote for any and all bonus measures as "a lifeline that comes just in time to save us from the devil or the deep sea."

Sentiment in favor of postponement of the bonus scheme appeared to-night to be crystallizing much more rapidly than support for either the sales tax or excess profits method for raising the needed revenue. It was not a popular suggestion by any means, nor did it have the effect of satisfying the frenzied Senators and Representatives who faced the consequences (to themselves) of adopting such a course.

Legitimate legislators whose emotions had not been worn threadbare by the crossfire to which they have recently been subjected, appeared to take the view that the most logical thing to do under the circumstances would be to sidetrack the whole bonus project for the time being and unite in making more adequate provision for the maintenance and comfort of the real victims of the war whose physical disabilities justify the utmost generosity on the part of the Government.

Farm Sections Object.

The President's suggestion that a sales tax be adopted to provide the money for the bonus met with divided comment. Senators and Representatives of the industrial centers have long advocated the adoption of a sales tax as the natural corollary of the personal income law immediately reflected their complete indorsement of the plan on general principles because of their conviction that it would yield revenues vitally needed for the Government purposes. But the majority sentiment in both houses appeared to be decidedly antagonistic to the sales tax suggestion offered by the President. Opposition to it was voiced by Senators and Representatives from the agricultural regions of the country, East and South, and of both parties.

During the early stages of the discussion over the President's letter members both favoring and opposing the bonus plan concerned themselves with the sales tax, and it was apparent to even a casual investigator that the bulk of legislative sentiment was opposed to it.

In groping for an alternative, proponents of the bonus scheme seized upon the proposition already rejected as impracticable that the wartime excess profits tax be restored. The old arguments that "Wall Street millionaires should be made to pay the soldiers' bonus" was revived and flavored the comments of the opponents to the sales tax plan.

No headway was made in support of either scheme. The joint subcommittee appointed to devise an acceptable method for

FOUND ANYTHING?

If you see it it is advertised in the Lost and Found columns of today's New York Herald. See opposite editorial—Adm.

NO TIME FOR CASH BONUS, ASSERTS SENATOR CALDER

Special Dispatch to THE NEW YORK HERALD.

SENATOR CALDER (Rep., N. Y.) said to-day that he had received over 2,000 letters from his constituents in the Empire State, and that most of them were protests against the bonus. The New York Senator, whose position has not been clear up to date, issued a statement after the receipt of the President's letter to-day. It was in the form of an answer to the editorial inquiry of THE NEW YORK HERALD, regarding his attitude on the bonus issue. Senator Calder said:

"In my opinion, it would be most unwise either to issue bonds or levy special taxes, as indicated in the Ways and Means Committee program, for the purpose of paying the so-called bonus. In the present state of the nation's finances it would, in my judgment, be a mistake to pay a cash bonus. I am hopeful that out of the general discussion of this question will arise some practical suggestion coming from the veterans themselves. I trust these recommendations coming from this source will include a proposal that will abandon entirely any thought of the bonus taking the shape of a cash award."

The New York Senator qualified his opposition to the bonus plan by indorsing "a paid up insurance which would go to the dependents of the veterans in case of their death or to themselves after a period of twenty years."

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The President's letter was read and it did not occasion surprise as the suggestion of a sales tax had been expected. The members of the subcommittee looked at each other awaiting the next move. The great bulk of Senators and Representatives who anxiously awaited the result of the meeting have been led to believe that if the President did not propose a new and acceptable method for raising bonus funds the committee would give consideration to some of the proposals that have been rejected by the Executive and legislative leaders for several reasons. Consequently there was great disappointment expressed when the committee adjourned after discussing the President's letter but without adopting any new plan.

The bonus advocates, who were in the great majority, were manifestly distressed over the trend of events. They frankly confessed they did not know which way to turn and expressed great disappointment that the President, whose advice they had previously ignored, had failed to come to their rescue.

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Chairman Fordney of the House Ways and Means Committee, while admitting that the sales tax idea will stand very little chance of passing both houses, still had it in mind to go at it again to-morrow. The Treasury Department for an estimate as to the probable amount of revenue that could be raised under several alternate plans. By modifying some of the features of the sales tax already proposed so as to eliminate the payment of cash bonuses, and exempt from taxation certain classes of farm products, he believed much of the opposition from the agricultural elements of the country will be withdrawn.

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Another group of legislators composed entirely of men who had served in the world war put in most of the afternoon trying to find a way out of the difficulty confronting them. A proposal to eliminate the cash option from the bonus bill and to concentrate on an option to pay the ex-service men by Government negotiable certificates bearing interest to run for twenty years was proposed. This contention and rejected as being impracticable.

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While various conferences were going on, Senators and Representatives who did not participate in them wandered around trying to comfort one another with the assurance that "a bonus bill is going to be passed, and the money will have to be found to finance it." None was forthcoming up to a late hour this evening, and it then appeared improbable there would be one.

The professional promoters of the bonus scheme shared the disappointment of their Congressional supporters over the President's letter. They would not admit for an instant, however, that it would discourage their efforts to put through a bill, if for no other reason than to convince the service men, whose votes are needed, that the members of Congress at least have kept their promises.

Brings Relief to Many.

There is no question that many Senators and Representatives who have committed themselves to support of the bonus project found a great deal of satisfaction in the letter of the President. They hailed it as the beginning of the end of one of the most disturbing legislative problems.

The shower of protests against the passage of a bonus bill in the present financial condition of the country increased in volume to-day. The telegraphic committees were grouped with messages to supplement the torrent of warnings and remonstrances brought by the mails.

CRIPPLED VETERANS PLEAD FOR DELAY

Continued from First Page.

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"Whereas, On July 25, 1921, the Comptroller-General of the United States of America ruled this regulation illegal because it granted the disbursment of funds on a presumption, and.

"Whereas, One of the fundamental laws of insurance is to the effect that where there is any language of doubtful meaning in an insurance contract all such doubtful meaning shall always be construed in favor of the insured, and.

"Whereas, The Director of the Veterans' Bureau cannot decide how long a beneficiary must be totally disabled until he becomes permanently disabled until he secures the authority of a saying a man is permanently and totally disabled unless that man is dead; and.

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"Resolved, That we petition the President of the United States of America to secure the enactment of the following bill prior to the adjusted compensation bill.

"Therefore, Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, that section 400 of Article Number IV, of the war risk insurance act, or any other acts amendatory thereto, be and is hereby amended by the addition of the following clauses:

"Provided that when a beneficiary under this act has been heretofore rated by the United States Public Health Service, Bureau of War Risk Insurance or the Veterans' Bureau as permanently and totally disabled by either of said organizations and has been continuously so disabled for a period of twelve months or more, and been found upon examination by competent medical authority to be unable to follow continuous any materially gainful occupation, such beneficiary shall be adjudged to be totally disabled and shall be entitled to all the benefits of such rating under the war risk insurance act, and acts amendatory thereto, from the date such total disability began.

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Speaker Machold to Quit for Bank President's Job

LIBANY, Feb. 16.—H. Edmund Machold will retire as Speaker of the Assembly at the end of this session to become president of the Northern New York Trust Company. His friends were informed to-day. The Speaker has not made formal announcement, but the report has come down from Watertown that he has agreed to accept presidency of the bank of which he now is vice-president.

Joseph A. McGinnies, chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, the most important in the Assembly, is in direct line for the Speakership in the event of a vacancy. He has been in the Assembly for seven terms and is from Chautauque, the home of Fred Nixon, Speaker several years ago. Machold has been in the Assembly since 1912 and Speaker for two years. As successor to Thaddeus C. Sweet he has been undisputed boss.

Declares Rank and File of Army Are Opposed to Direct Relief.

SPELLS PARTY DISASTER

East Orange Jurist Warns of Plunging Country in Hopeless Debt.

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Mr. Heasley in condemning the bonus because of its effect on the country emphasized the fact he opposed it as a Republican as well as a citizen. He saw in the passage of such legislation a blow at the strength of his party in the State.

"Personally I prefer a good Democrat with the courage of his convictions to a so-called Republican with neither convictions nor courage," he said, "and I believe there are a lot of us."

Although Judge Heasley said he spoke for himself alone, and not for the 500 members of the Republican Club, which includes such influential and prominent men as Senator Frelinghuysen, he said also that in his conversations with his friends he had found few Republicans or Democrats who favor the bonus.

"We already have voted \$12,000,000 in this State for a bonus for ex-service men, and are bonding the State for \$40,000,000 for good roads," he said. "This Federal bonus plan added to the dissatisfaction which has already arisen in popular sections against our party on account of the attempted drastic enforcement of prohibition laws does not enhance the prospects for victory of our party this fall."

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"Few men will take the time at present to denounce the bonus, but they will spare no time later on when its effects are felt to denounce those who authorized it."

Judge Heasley said the bonus must be intended for one or both of two purposes—to compensate a financial loss or to pay for services rendered.

"If it is intended for the former then why not let the Government pay the bonus to the men who have sustained such loss, whether caused by the draft or loss of business, depreciation in values, or what not. Why pick out a few of the more vociferous?"

"If it is to pay for services then let history record the year 1922 as the first time when our men demanded pay for defending our shores. As Senator Borah asks, 'Are we Heasleys?' I fully believe the rank and file of our army are patriotic red blooded Americans, but they are put in a false light by a lot of money grabbers. You can't buy or sell patriotism. You can't buy or sell patriotism."

Mr. Heasley expressed surprise at the fact that \$170,000,000 is spent yearly for pensions for well war veterans and their dependents fifty-six years after the war and suggested that it might be well to look over the list.

"What will it fifty-six years after the present time we need the veterans of this war?" he asked, and added that the bonus would open the way for other similar legislation.

"This tax will go to many men who don't need the money and it will be paid by many people who really can't afford to pay it," he said. "The amount received by each veteran is too trivial to do him any good, but the aggregate constitutes an immense burden on the nation. I believe it is going materially to keep prices high and taxes heavy, and continue the present depression. The injury that has brought it about is the same veterans we are attempting to help will be much greater than any possible benefit."

REFERENDUM BY COUNTY LEGIONS IS CONSIDERED

Action Slated for To-night to Get Bonus Opinions.

The county committee of the American Legion, at its regular monthly meeting to-night in the Hotel Pennsylvania, will take up a proposal advocated in a letter to the committee from the City Club of New York Post that a referendum be taken of all posts in New York county to determine how many favor the proposed Government bonus for able-bodied former soldiers and sailors.

The letter, signed by Carl H. Geitz, adjutant of the City Club Post, and addressed to Thomas J. Brady, chairman of the New York county committee, is as follows:

"The City Club of New York Post of the American Legion, No. 241, respectfully requests the New York County Committee to take a referendum vote of those in the county which are in good standing to determine exactly how many posts favor the proposed Federal Government bonus for able-bodied former service men and how many are opposed. We would like to suggest that each post be asked to take an immediate referendum vote of its members, that only fully paid up members be permitted to vote, that the treasurer of the county committee be given an opportunity to check on the voting strength of the various posts and finally that the findings be made public. The City Club of New York Post has repeatedly expressed its opposition to any bonus for able-bodied former service men. We believe it our right to express our opinion, and we are sure of any stand taken officially by the Legion. In re-stating our position we are fully aware of the proposal to amend the Constitution so that no post may express itself as a post contrary to any stand taken by a majority of posts."

"We believe it of real public interest how many members of the American Legion in New York want the bonus. By obtaining this information and making it public the county committee can be of real service."

REFERENDUM IN KENTUCKY.

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The bill would provide payment of \$10 a month to each soldier for every month up to twenty-five served.

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